

On March 26, 2003 the FCC proposed increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83).

My comment is concerning the fee charged for processing an Amateur Vanity Call Sign. Currently the FCC charges the full fee even if the FCC does NOT grant the Call Sign.

Applicants who submit an FCC Form 605 application but are not successful in obtaining a Vanity call sign with that application may seek a refund of the application fee, by writing to the FCC.

The problem is that the FCC should not require an applicant to have to write the FCC to request the refund. The FCC should not charge the full fee if the license is not granted. The FCC could charge a reasonable processing fee instead of the entire fee. The current policy does not make sense. Either charge an application fee separate from the license fee, or don't charge a fee at all for simply applying; but please don't charge a fee when a license is NOT granted.

It is wrong for the FCC to charge a full license fee, but yet deny the license. A private company could never get away with charging a full fee and not provide the full service. It seems reasonable to charge an application fee for every application, but to charge the complete license fee is not reasonable. It also costs the FCC to process all of the refunds. It is possible that the entire refund process could be eliminated and a cost savings realized if this change were implemented. This suggestion seems like a more reasonable, and ethical approach than the current policy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kevin Hemsley  
NF7J  
kev@ida.net